

# THE VISITOR

Midsummer 2023

**The Congregational Church of Austin    United Church of Christ**

408 West 23rd St. Austin, Texas 78705-5214  
(512) 472-2370

E-mail: [office@congregationalchurchofaustin.org](mailto:office@congregationalchurchofaustin.org)    Web site: [congregationalchurchofaustin.org](http://congregationalchurchofaustin.org)

\*To unsubscribe to The Visitor Newsletter please contact us at [office@congregationchurchofaustin.org](mailto:office@congregationchurchofaustin.org)

**Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor**

---

## INSTITUTE on THEOLOGY & DISABILITY 20 23



### **Report of the Institute on Theology and Disability June 2023 Seminar by Sarah Darter**

**Carolyn Thompson, CJ Wood** and I attended the Institute on Disability and Theology from June 26 to June 29. It was held at the George W. Truett Seminary at Baylor University and simultaneously cast online. The Seminary is a beautiful place. **CJ** graduated from Truett Seminary in 2005. The Institute is in its twelfth year and is held each summer in a different geographic location. This was an interfaith group with people largely coming from Christian and Jewish perspectives and a smaller amount of people from Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu faith communities.

The three of us from our church were enabled to go to this by some anonymously donated funds. We all three say “Thank you for that.” Also, we all three have varying prior experiences with theology and disabilities. **Carolyn** began writing about theology and disability when she started seminary in 1994 and went on to share these ideas ecumenically with the Massachusetts Council of Churches and then through the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network of the World Council of Churches. **CJ** studied liberation theology, including disability liberation theology, as part of her dissertation. Her focus has been primarily on mental health and invisible disabilities. I had had only one post graduate homiletics class on “Preaching on Disabilities” sometime after my doctoral studies, probably over 25 years ago. I think the seminal book **The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology** by Nancy L. Eiesland (published in 1994) might have already been published.

Cont. on the next page

Thirty years ago there were no courses on theology and disability and hardly any books. The struggle for disability rights began to transform secular ethics and public policy in the 70's and 80's. However, the church and other religious communities have been slower to deal with disability in our theological imagination. This is beginning to change. Now there are dozens of books and seminaries are slowly beginning to add classes or seminars on these subjects. Baylor University Press had several books on these subjects on display and for sale at this conference. The titles (see below) are very telling and show the variety of angles from which we do theology and provide ministry.

“Accessibility was a theme I heard repeatedly. Also “inclusion ”and the importance of “intersectionality.” Are people with physical and/or mental disabilities able to worship and be fully welcomed and included in your congregation? I heard of one church that has installed for the first time a Deacon who has Down Syndrome. That gave me a lot to think about. I also learned that if one disabled member of a family is not provided accommodations for his or her needs and does not feel welcome, then the whole family does not participate. The concept of intersectionality was new to me. There are many different kinds of disabilities in a community. What might be helpful to one person (let's say lowering the overhead lights so bright lights are not bothering them) might be at odds with another person with the disability of vision (where those lower lights make it more difficult for them to read and see things.)

There were many questions to consider. Does your church have a quiet room where people who are easily overstimulated can go? What kind of lighting do you have in the worship space and throughout your building? Fluorescent or flickering lights may be okay to most people but it can set off a seizure in some individuals.

Can everyone get up onto your speaker platform and fit behind the pulpit? If there are steps, is there also a ramp? Are your pulpit and microphone placement able to accommodate all heights of people, including wheelchair users? I learned that some sanctuaries have hydraulic communion tables that can be elevated or lowered to accommodate worship leaders of different heights. Does the sound system in your church accommodate people who are hard of hearing? Do your bathrooms accommodate wheelchair users? Do they have enough space for a second person, a caregiver?

I heard disabled participants say, “I wish people would accept me as I am. I have my disabilities and limitations. I am ok with them. This is how God made me. I feel good about myself. I wish people would quit telling me they are praying for my healing-like I need to be fixed.” That was pointed out to me as an “ableist” point of view.

I learned a lot. I remember one woman saying, “You need to ordain us. More disabled pastors need to get ordained. Disabled people should have the opportunity to get spiritual guidance from another disabled person. When a pastor is able bodied and giving us counsel, they usually do not understand what our disability issues are. We have to spend a lot of time trying to educate them. If we can get counsel from a disabled pastor, we can get faster to the problems we need help with.”

On the Sunday after the Institute, **Carolyn** and **CJ** and I had a lunch to talk about what we had learned and to think ahead about accessibility, inclusion and intersectionality in our current and future ministries. What does to CCA need to put in place to be more welcoming, inclusive and fully accessible?

I love being a UCC person. We do our best to live up to our choice to be a church of radical inclusion, of liberation, of justice. All are extravagantly welcomed. Can we make this even more true for those of us with mental and physical disabilities? - - - - -

Here are some of the books I saw:

~Autism and the Church by **Grant Macaskill**

~Disability and Spirituality: Recovering Wholeness by **Bill Gaventa**.

~Pastoral Care and Intellectual Disability: A Person Centered Approach by **Anna Katherine Shirley**

~Becoming Wondrously Wounded: Theology, Disability, and the Body of Christ by **Brian Brock**

~Prophetic Disability: Divine Sovereignty and Human Bodies in the Hebrew Bible by **Sarah Melcher**

~Becoming the Baptized Body: Disability and the Practice of Christian Community by **Sarah Jean Barton**

~Accessible Atonement: Disability, Theology and the Cross of Christ by **David McLachlan**

**September Visitor Deadline August 25, 2023**

## **Church Leadership**

Trustee's Chair	Kevin Dietz
Deacon's Chair	Jen Howicz
Outreach Coordinator	Whit Bodman
Moderator	Joy Penticuff
Treasurer	Pam Tucker
Financial Secretary	Jaime Hadley
Children's Sunday School	Kay Pruett
Youth Sunday School	Open
Clerk	Reuel Nash
Historians	Pat & Mel Oakes
Member-at-Large	Bill Beardall
Pastor	Amelia Fulbright
Dir. of Online Ministries	Britt Hicks
Director of Music	Laura Martin

## Personals by Pat Oakes

**W**e were all bereft when it was discovered during the pandemic that our beautiful tapestry that was dedicated on January 6, 1980, had disappeared. Because it was Lent when we stopped worshipping in person when we closed up the church, the purple cloth was hanging on the cross at the altar, and the tapestry had been stored and no one realized it was gone for quite a while. We are so fortunate, though, to have a wonderful new quilted tapestry created by long-time member and nationally recognized fabric artist and quilt designer, **Frances Alford**. When she learned about the loss, she offered to create a new one for the church—a gift beyond measure. It was dedicated on Sunday, June 18th and **Frances** introduced us to the art and theology represented in the beautiful new altarpiece. There was a glitch in getting it properly hung that day, but it made it much easier for **Frances** to point to the parts she was highlighting. Use the following link to learn more about the meanings of the various representations. <https://www.patandmeloakes.com/PatandMelOakesFamilySite/CCAHistory/AlfordWallHanging.html>



6/18/23 Frances Alford, longtime member, fabric artist and master quilter, standing by the beautiful, quilted tapestry/altar piece which she created to replace the altar hanging which was stolen during the pandemic

**Joy Penticuff** has been on the mend, and we were all delighted to see **Joy** back at church for the first time in months. She felt she simply could not miss the dedication of the new church altarpiece. Not only does the altarpiece look beautiful, but so does **Joy!**



6/18/23 It was a joy to have Joy Penticuff back in our midst, shown here with Pam Tucker — on the day the new altarpiece was dedicated

**Joan Mueller** is glad to report that she and her husband **Bill** are enjoying “decently good health” and getting excellent care at Westminster—**Bill** in skilled nursing and Joan in their apartment in assisted living. **Bill** fractured his shoulder several months ago and now as he is healing is doing a lot of therapy. He needs help every time he gets up and down since he can’t use his shoulder normally yet. Because of where they live, **Joan** and **Bill** can see each other every day — either in skilled nursing or in their apartment. One thing they are enjoying doing together is listening to audio books.

Many thanks to **Kay Pruett** who organized another visit to Community First! Village on June 23rd. It was a warm Saturday afternoon, but we all thoroughly enjoyed getting a tour (in a fancy golf cart sort of vehicle) of this inspiring community which was established by Mobile Loaves and Fishes in 2004 to provide homes and services to the unhoused within a community. They are now working on Phase 4 of this community and have purchased land for Phase 5. If you have the opportunity to go and visit, please do—or talk to **Kay Pruett** who is considering becoming a missional—living within the community as a neighbor. Take a few minutes to look at this link. <https://mlf.org/community-first/> It makes real

## Personals by Pat Oakes

the possibility that our church will still be able to minister to the unhoused folks in Austin through Community First!



6/3/23 Kay Pruett organized a church group outing to Community First! Village -- Getting our orientation talk at the Front Porch -- Victoria Li, Sarah Darter, Barbara Burnham, Mel Oakes, Kay Pruett, Pat Oakes, and Carolyn Thompson



6/3/23 More examples of tiny homes

**Cameron Goff** was celebrated by family and friends on May 22nd, when he received his diploma from the Baylor College of Medicine. He is now officially a Doctor of Medicine and will be doing his residency at Baylor in Houston. He and his wife, **Amber Goff** (née **Corder**) will be staying in the same two-bedroom apartment that they were in while **Cameron** was going to Baylor Medical School, so they don't have to move at all. **Amber** is working for a big accounting firm and is in the midst of taking the tests to become a CPA (she only has one more to go). They also have three cats and one dog, all rescues.



6/3/23 3 computer generated extruded concrete tiny homes



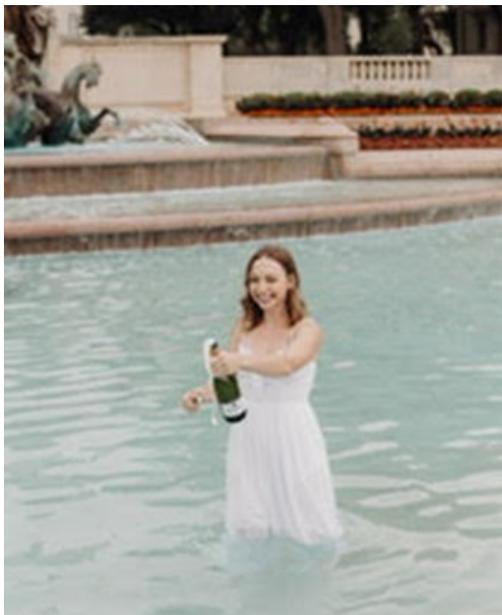
6/3/23 One of the kitchen locations--neighbors cook and eat together



5/22/23 Elated Dr. Cameron Goff with his diploma from Baylor

## Personals by Pat Oakes

**Anya Toskey** has been having a busy summer. She says, "After my own master's graduation (Master of Science in Social Work), I got to reunite with my family (all four of us siblings pictured) in Fulshear TX to celebrate my brother's high school graduation. Yippee! I also took a road trip to Big Bend with my mom and dog Maya. We humans got up to a little hiking, and the three of us drove around in awe of the West Texas landscape, snacking all the way. After 16 years in Texas, I finally saw my first tumbleweed! I am currently working with families involved with Child Protective Services as a conservatorship caseworker, but who knows what all the future holds!"



5/23 New graduate Anya Toskey with a bottle of champagne in the Littlefield Fountain on the UT campus



5/23 The Toskey siblings, Elsa, Ivar (the graduate), Laurel, and Anya

**Britt Hicks** (Director of Online Ministries at the church) and her wife **Radhika Hicks** have exciting news to share. **Britt** says, "This has been an adventure of uncertainty for almost two years now, and to be able to share this news comes with excitement and tenderness. We will welcome our baby girl in December, we will welcome positive thoughts prayers, dances, all the good things." Also in their family news, congratulations to **Rohan Sthanu** who graduated in May from McNeil High School. He will be attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall and is planning on majoring in political science.



5/23 Anya's dog Maya admiring the terrain in West Texas



6/23 Britt and Radhika Hicks are expecting a baby girl in December

Photos cont. on next page

**Personals**  
by Pat Oakes



5/27/23 Proud mom Radhika Hicks with her son, new graduate from McNeil High School, Rohan Sthanu



5/28/23 Pentecost Sunday with our neighbor UUMC -- Jaime Hadley, Reuel and Liz Nash, Betty and Whit Bodman, Stephen Russell

The members of the Congregational Church of Austin were invited to, and a good number attended or participated in the Pentecost service at University United Methodist Church—about 20 of us were there. **Laura Martin, Sara Ross, Michael Ross, Barbara Burnham, Amy Harris** were delighted to be a part of the large choir and many musicians that day. After the service, folks enjoying refreshing snow cones out on the patio.



5/28/23 Pentecost Sunday with our neighbor, UUMC -- Laura Martin, Carolyn Thompson, Whit and Betty Bodman, Reuel and Liz Nash, UUMC Pastor Teresa Wellborn, Britt Hicks, Vivienne and George Zercher with their parents, Pastor Amelia Fulbright, and George Zercher



5/28/23 Pentecost Sunday with our neighbor UUMC--members from our church enjoying snow cones after the Pentecost church service--Stephen Russell, Betty Bodman, Lynn Chavarria, Carolyn Thompson, Britt Hicks

Photos cont. on next page

## Personals by Pat Oakes



5/28/23 Pentecost Sunday with our neighbors at UUMC -- Pastors Amelia Fulbright and Teresa Wellborn, Amy Harris with the violin, Laura Martin, Sara Ross, and Michael Ross on the back row--Barbara Burnham was in the choir also

pating in other organizations and events throughout the greater Austin area. In affirmation, gratitude, and celebration the HOT Association would like to send off Pastor **René** ready to be ordained once he finds his next call. Everyone is invited to join by Zoom on Saturday, July 22nd at 10 am for **René's** Ecclesiastical Council. The Zoom link will be shared in the church's e-news along with the link to **René's** ecclesiastical papers. If you have any questions, please contact **CJ Wood**.



René Slataper is ready for his upcoming Ecclesiastical Council on July 22nd

Rising McCallum senior **John Dietz** is spending his summer working on his Eagle Scout project, among other things. He was delighted to fulfill his GoFundMe goal of \$1000. **John** says, "I am very excited to begin working on this project, which will be to renovate the bullpen of the baseball field of the North Austin Optimist Club, a local youth baseball organization. Baseball has always been a huge part of my life. It is a game I have devoted a lot of time to and it has taught me a ton about life and many of my fondest memories surround this sport. I knew I wanted my project to involve baseball because I want to give back to this game for all that it has given me. Any money that is left over from the project will be donated to N.A.O." **John**, we look forward to hearing all about your project in the next Visitor in September.

Our very own **René Slataper** has completed the requirements for his Ecclesiastical Council. **René** has served as Pastor of Labyrinth, invented the role of Director of Online Ministry in just a week for CCA, and has served as HOPE United's Pastor for the last two years. He has been a strong advocate for LGBTQ+ rights spending time at the Capitol, partici-

**CJ Wood** celebrates new employment opportunities! **CJ** recently accepted an adjunct faculty position with Fletcher Seminary. She will also be doing contract work for chaplaincy curriculum development. Fletcher Seminary grew out of the closure of Logsdon Seminary. Fletcher was founded by those who envisioned a progressive diverse multid denominational seminary accessible globally. They also offer certificate programs and workshops for continuing education and lay leadership — [www.fletcherseminary.org](http://www.fletcherseminary.org). **CJ** will begin her new role as a course facilitator for Pathways Theological Education, Inc. on Monday, July 10th. She will be facilitating courses for Ministry Supervision. Pathways was born out of the Southeast Conference of UCC and has grown into its own entity. It offers courses for those wanting to increase their biblical and theological knowledge. It also fills in the gaps for those seeking ordination yet for whatever reason, usually not attending a UCC seminary or geographical challenges, need courses such as History and Polity (<https://www.pathwaystheological.org/>).

Photos cont. on next page

## Personals by Pat Oakes



7/23 CJ Wood has accepted 2 teaching and curriculum development positions at 2 seminaries.

**Yoshi and Setsuko Kaneda** write with delight from San Diego to tell us of the birth of their first great-grandchild. **Yoshi** was our pastor from September of 1989 until March of 2001 see link below: (<https://www.patandmeloakes.com/PatandMelOakesFamilySite/CCAHistory/YoshiKaneda.html>). **Yoshi** says. "It's a boy. His name is **Enzo Yoshi Liu Fujikawa**. (Too long, but **Eric** and **Patti** wanted it just like that.) They live in Chula Vista, CA, just a 15 minute drive from our home."



6/23/23 Yoshi and Setsuko Kaneda are delighted to have visits with their first great-grandchild Enzo Yoshi Liu Fujikawa.

**Debby Kohrt's** grandchildren are enjoying their summer. **Caleb** has been busy this summer with basketball tournaments. He is 15, 16 in September. He will be taking student driving lessons soon.... just a warning! He will be a sophomore at Akins High School this fall. **Debby** has become quite the basketball fan as she goes to every game she can. **Zozey** has been helping the neighbors with a new litter of kittens.... which she loves. She will be in 6th grade at Bailey Middle school this fall.



5/24/23 Proud grandmother Debby Kohrt with grandson Caleb Parkhill, MVP freshman at Akins High School early college prep



5/26/23 Proud grandmother Debby Kohrt with her granddaughter Zozey Parkhill celebrating Zozey's graduation from 5th grade

**Personals (cont)**  
**by Pat Oakes**

**Beth Gleason** writes from Maine. "Checking in here with a report and "party pix" of my June infusion appointment to keep me cancer free. This is how we do it, every six months for the rest of my life...-get a good buddy to go with you because you are going to be the "party pod" in the unit; both of you dress up, wearing full-on make-up, so you look "purty" as they say in my beloved TX - pretend that the water they give you is champagne - make sure your friend brings funny videos or jokes, or better yet some good gossip about your other friends ...because if you make enough cheerful noise, the nurses will join in, and have a little fun in their long, compassionate day, helping other people much sicker than you... Finally be sure to smile big and wink and throw kisses at all the other PTs as you leave, especially the good-lookin' guys!" Other news from **Beth** includes, "Howdy - check these gorgeous boots! Brand new, Women's, size 9, 100 % leather, turquoise stitching. Selling these for my sister. Originally \$220 from RedHawk, Sue is asking \$150 and she will cover shipping. Takes Venmo, etc. Call my sister, **Sue** at 207-749-0154. Believe me, nobody wears beautiful boots like these in Maine, so do a good deed and bring them home to Texas!"



6/1/23 A good friend with Beth Gleason at her June Infusion session



These beautiful boots need a home

For those of you who remember and cherish the memory of longtime church member and outstanding elementary schoolteacher **Nancy Brown** (d.2021 at almost 101), her fondest hope was for her estate and that of her late husband Rev. **James Wiley Brown** (d. 1983) to be left to Huston-Tillotson University for scholarships. Her wish was fulfilled thanks to the stewardship of her dear friends, **Catherine** and **Bob Lee**, who had been a part of **Nancy's** life for many years. It took a while for **Nancy's** home to be sold and all of the financial details to be worked out, but on June 23rd, 2023, **Catherine, Bob**, and their son **Brett** presented H-T with a check for \$410,000 for **Nancy's** dreamed-of scholarships which are now a reality. **Nancy** also left a thousand dollars to the church memorial fund. What a blessing she was and now her influence will be felt for generations to come.



2/16/17 Beautiful Nancy Brown at her 97th birthday party at Pappadeaux's in Austin

Our church was well represented at the South Central Conference annual meeting held May 19-21 at the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas.



5/19-21/23 Pastor Amelia Fulbright, Britt Hicks, Kevin Dietz, and CJ Wood at the South Central Conference annual meeting

## Personals (cont) by Pat Oakes



5/19-21/223 Sarah Darter, Britt Hicks, and Pastor Amelia Fulbright at the South Central Conference annual meeting

Colorado. The boys, usually shy around strangers, immediately went up to them and were quite at home. It was a great surprise. Yesterday was a quiet day. We celebrated **Amy's** birthday with monstrous steaks from a Montana ranch. Tonight, we go out late to fireworks, so we have the boys out on the pump track getting tired so that hopefully they will take long naps. And of course, they will pick more huckleberries. I am squeezing in as much time as possible to work on a major encyclopedia article on the devil in Islam. It is a very different kind of writing than I have done in the past. It is beautiful living out in the woods, watching the birds come to the birdfeeders, enjoying brilliant blue skies and puffy clouds, and the very tall, rigidly straight firs and larches. Chilly at night, pleasantly warm during the day. Very relaxing.”

On July 4th, **Whit Bodman** shared the fun he and **Betty** have had in Whitefish, MT—avoiding thinking about the upcoming move from Austin to New Jersey. "We have had a week and a half in Montana with our son **Noah**, wife **Erin**, and grand twins **Otis** (blonde) and **Arlo** (brown hair). Our daughter **Elizabeth** came out from New Jersey with **Clara** (nine) and **Elsie** (six), our other two grandchildren. Nice to have all four together. And we did a lot! We went out to explore the Hungry Horse dam, went briefly to a mountain pond, and then to a rodeo. That was particularly exciting. First rodeo for most of us. **Noah** knew someone who was competing, so the kids got to meet her horse, who calmly let them pet and sit on her. That was a High Point. **Noah** is an avid mountain biker. He does reviews for mountain bike and skiing equipment and sometimes races. He has built a pump course out back. It has a number of short humps so that one ought to be able to go around without peddling, just "pumping" as one does on a swing. That's about as much as I can clarify about that. The girls really enjoyed that. The boys, who will turn three in a couple of weeks, go around it with skill on their striders. Striders are bikes without pedals. We also saw **Noah** go over some very big jumps. We went out to the ski hill and rode the alpine sleds down curvy chutes. It was a pretty wild ride. I used the brake a lot more than I thought I would have to. We picked lots of huckleberries in the woods around the house and made huckleberry pancakes and huckleberry muffins. Amazing that the kids were able to resist eating them all in the woods. We went to the beach. **Clara** is a gymnast. She cartwheels and flips everywhere. The girls have gone home. **Betty's** sister **Amy**, and her husband **Chris**, have arrived in their camper from



6/28/23 The Bodmans' 4 grandchildren--Arlo and Otis Bodman and Elsie and Clara Matthews in Whitefish, MT



6/28/23 Huckleberry mania in Whitefish, MT-- 2 grownups and Clara, Elsie, Arlo, and Otis, the Bodmans' grandchildren

**Personals (cont)**  
by Pat Oakes



7/4/23 In Montana, Arlo in Betty's lap and Otis is in Whit's lap

It was a bittersweet Sunday at church on July 9th. After several years of planning, **Whit and Betty Bodman** are moving to New Jersey where they will be living at 112 Erie St., Jersey City, NJ 07302. In fact, the folks they share the duplex with are their daughter **Elizabeth**, their son-in-law **Greg Matthews**, and adorable granddaughters **Clara and Elsie**. **Whit** preached an eloquent sermon on the concept of a covenant—that we are all in covenant with each other in our church. We certainly feel that sense of covenant with them even though they will be far away. **Whit** is well known for his interesting/unusual tie collection (he is often the only one wearing a tie). In a last minute plan, the congregation outdid itself with many folks wearing ties also—men and women. By pure happenstance, the closing hymn was “Blest Be The Tie(s) That Bind” and at **Betty’s** request we joined in a circle in the sanctuary and tearfully sang—doing very well on the first verse, but clearly needing to learn the words on the next three verses. Our Zoom gathering for Joys and Concerns was held immediately after the service ended, which made it possible to have a regular coffee hour time for visiting which was a pleasure enjoyed by all.



7/9/23 Whit Bodman preached an eloquent sermon on the meaning of covenant and how we relate to each other as a church community



7/9/23 The congregation singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" as we said farewell to the Bodmans--Center back--Pastor Amelia, Whit and Betty Bodman, Pam Tucker



7/9/23 Bill Beardall wearing a tie in honor of Whit Bodman

Photos cont. on the next page

**Personals (cont)**  
by Pat Oakes



7/9/23 Ann Locasio visiting with Whit Bodman after our farewell to the Bodmans — note his Texas tie



7/9/23 Pat Oakes made the cake for Betty and Whit Bodman -- Vaya con Dios



7/9/23 Jaime Hadley wearing a tie (in Whit's honor) for the first time in twenty years!!



7/9/23 Blest be the ties that bind--a large cohort wearing ties in Whit Bodman's honor--l-r Jonathan, George, Vivienne Zercher, Pastor Amelia, CJ Wood, Jen Howicz, Lynn Chavarria, Joy Penticuff, Betty Bodman, Abby Lundgren, Whit Bodman, Warinda Harris, Barbara Burnham, Britt Hicks, Pat Oakes, Pam Tucker, Kay Pruett, Sarah Darter, Laura Martin, Jaime Hadley, and Bill Beardall

## Personals (cont) by Pat Oakes

We always love our trio, but it was a special treat to have a quartet in mid-June. They played wonderful music which was enjoyed by all—**James Anderson, Amy Harris, Liz Lee, and Jonathan Geer**. We are truly blessed by our talented musicians.



6/11/23 Visiting after church with Roberto Hernandez holding Sebastian, visiting (from Las Vegas) violinist James Anderson, Jonathan Geer holding Xitlali

Exciting times in the **Scott** household (in Strathaven, Scotland near Glasgow). **Edith** writes, "We've just celebrated 50 golden years (23rd June) with family/friends' celebrations over the weekend organised by **David** and **Susan** and the final surprise from them both is a trip to Budapest. We leave tomorrow for a week." The **Scotts** (**Edith, David, David Jr.**, and **Susan**) were here for a year in 1985, became a part of our church family—and are still in touch. **Edith**, we expect a full report for the September Visitor.



6/23/1973 Newlyweds, Edith, and David Scott in Scotland



6/24/23 David and Edith Scott celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in style in a limo

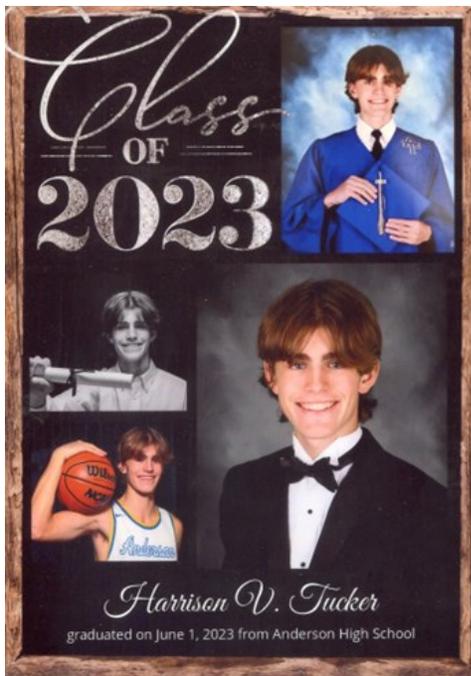
**Ann Locasio** reports, "I'm really enjoying my improv comedy class. The main thing they teach is to stay in the here and now. I have no time to worry about anything personal or political when I'm in the moment, waiting to see what the other person will say or do next and what I'll need to respond to. We've practiced mirroring each other and playing a game that's like the old version of "telephone" where someone transmits a message from person to person and watches it change after ten people repeat it. Only the way we did it, we used words and gestures and I had to repeat the word-gesture combination of the person who had just made that combination in front of me. When we were all laughing so much, we couldn't do the word-gesture combination right, the next person had to incorporate the laughter when they transmitted the message to the next person. It got extremely silly! The rest of my life has been working at the state hospital, watering **Kay's** plants while she's out of town, the occasional brunch, dance, or karaoke night with my Meetup group, and walking dogs in scorching weather! See pic of Duke, the Lab/Pointer mix I walked recently. He was so hot after his walk; he ate his supper lying down."



6/23 Hot and tuckered out, Duke did the right thing and ate his supper lying down!

## Personals (cont) by Pat Oakes

**Tucker** kids are home for the summer and **Mom** is in Colorado, well, sort of. **Savanna** visited her boyfriend in Houston for his birthday and then met her two best friends from high school at South Padre this past week. She is home now and is coaching Ultimate frisbee at an overnight youth camp while she studies for the LSAT. She will be a senior at the University of Washington and hopes to come back to Texas for law school. **Harrison** will be going to college at Arizona State in Tempe (in only six weeks!). He did the whole college process by himself. One of his good friends from Austin is also going to ASU. They both look like they could be brothers and they both play Ultimate. For the rest of the summer, he is practicing almost daily with the Texas Ultimate U19 team to prepare for nationals in early August in Aurora, CO. **Pam** almost always celebrates the 4th of July with friends and family in Cuchara, CO, and it has been a wonderful time in the cool mountain air. Too bad she didn't win at BINGO (again!).



Congratulations to Harrison Tucker upon his graduation from Anderson High School

**Mel and Pat Oakes** had a marvelous, busy, and celebratory two week visit to San Francisco where they once again enjoyed housesitting for dear friends who were traveling in Europe and North Africa. While in SF, they celebrated grandson **Durham's** 11th birthday, Mother's Day, **Mel's** 87th birthday and **Pat and Mel's** 60th wedding anniversary. They were able to visit sophomore grandson

**Ethan** briefly at the Stanford University coffee house where he performed with friends at the Monday night jazz session (**Ethan** was the best one—an outstanding sax player). They walked and walked in Golden Gate Park (wonderful cool temperatures!), visited the amazing Salesforce Park in downtown SF (which is a 5.5. acre park with incredible exotic plants, trees and flowers built three—four stories above ground and the SF transportation center), caught up with some cousins and long-time friends, and had a great time with daughter **Mardie** and **Durham**.



5/13/23 Approaching Salesforce Park in downtown SF -- the park is 3-4 stories above street level. The Salesforce building is the tallest building in San Francisco



5/18/23 Mardie took this selfie--Mardie, Durham, Mel, and Pat -- at a French bistro with sidewalk seating—as Pat and Mel celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary

## History Corner by Pat & Mel Oakes

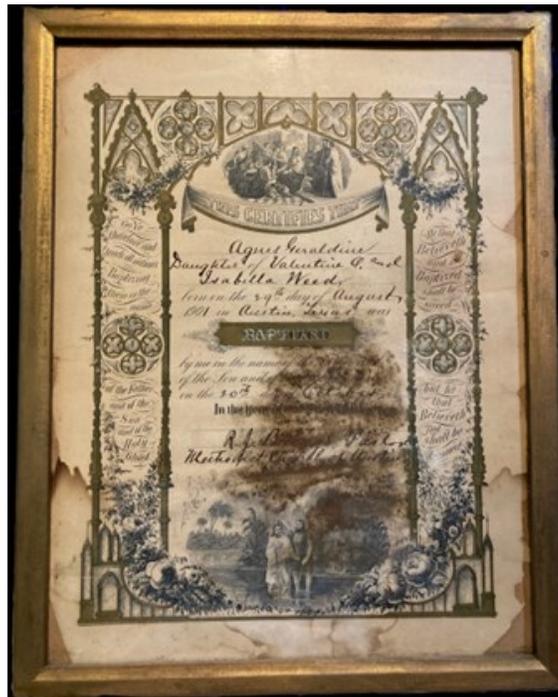
Sometimes it takes a little bit of serendipity to come up with a history corner topic. Thanks to **Abby Lundgren** and **Whit Bodman**, serendipity did step in this month. **Abby** asked **Whit** during coffee hour in mid-June what was hanging on the wall in the fellowship room (see below). **Whit** took it off of the wall, noticed that it was a baptismal certificate—and that much of it was hidden by mold. **Whit** made an immediate executive decision and brought it to **Mel Oakes** (a.k.a. Sherlock Holmes) and suddenly we know a lot about **Agnes Geraldine Weed** who was the first baby baptized (1901) by Rev. R. J. **Briggs** at the Methodist Church of Austin, the forerunner of the Congregational Church of Austin. We hope to get the certificate cleaned up soon.



6/3/07 Jeffrey Lemley celebrating his graduation--Katie Lemley and Emily Howicz--Bill Briggs and Rhys Ulerich on the left, Liz Nash, Marilyn Vaché on the right—note the mostly unnoticed baptismal certificate on the wall behind Liz Nash



7/9/23 Whit Bodman standing by the mold spot on the fellowship room wall where the Weed baptismal certificate hung--more than 100 years—in 2 different buildings



For much more information about Agnes Geraldine Weed and her family, go to <https://www.patandmeloakes.com/PatandMelOakesFamilySite/CAHistory/AgnesGeraldineWeed.html>